

REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended based on the disclosure in the first paragraph on page 38 in the specification. Claim 21 has been added based on the disclosure in the Field of the Invention section and in the second paragraph on page 14 in the specification.

Entry of the above amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 18-20

On page 2 of the Office Action, in paragraph 1, the Examiner indicates that in view of the amendment made in claims 18 and 20, claims 18-20 will be rejoined with Group I if Group I is found allowable.

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 18-20 will be rejoined with Group I if Group I is found allowable. In view of the remarks set forth herein, Applicants submit that Group I is allowable, and thus Applicants submit that claims 18-20 should be rejoined and found allowable as well.

Summaries of Claims

On page 2 of the Office Action, in paragraph 2, the Examiner indicates that he provides summaries of claims 1-3. However, it seems to Applicants that the summaries are summaries of claims 1, 4 and 5, and thus Applicants are pointing this out for the record.

Art Rejections

On page 3 of the Office Action, in paragraph 5, claims 1, 4-9, and 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kenji et al. (JP 54-092526). Also, on page 4 of the Office Action, in paragraph 7, claims 11-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenji et al. (JP 54-092526) in view of Miura et al. (JP 11-020318 A). In addition, on page 5 of the Office Action, in paragraph 8, claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kenji et al. (JP 54-092526) in view of Iguchi et al. (US 4,436,805).

In response, Applicants submit that the compounds (including the amine compounds) disclosed in Kenji are outside the scope of infrared absorbers. That is, Applicants submit that Kenji does not teach infrared absorbers, and thus does not teach the present invention. Applicants submit that the Examiner has not sufficiently explained which compounds of Kenji are considered to be infrared absorbers, and thus Applicants request that the Examiner provide a detailed explanation regarding which compounds of Kenji are considered to be infrared absorbers and why he considers them to be infrared absorbers.

Moreover, Applicants submit that the masking material for plating disclosed in Kenji is used when an image is formed (printed) by screen printing. Therefore, Applicants submit that the masking material of Kenji is fundamentally different from the resin composition for image formation (lithography) with infrared rays. Accordingly, Applicants submit that there is no motivation to use an infrared absorber in the composition of Kenji in view of its function.

Further, Applicants submit that the other references cannot cure the deficiencies in Kenji.

That is, Kenji does not teach or suggest Applicants' broadly claimed invention as discussed above, and Miura and Iguchi do not make up for Kenji's deficiencies discussed above, so the claimed invention is not obvious over the combination of Kenji and Miura or the combination of Kenji and Iguchi, assuming that Kenji and Miura or Kenji and Iguchi could even be combined at all.

Moreover, Kenji and Miura would not have been combined by one of ordinary skill in the art. Even if Miura discloses a specific compound within the scope of a general formula disclosed in Kenji, Miura's compound is for a thermal recording material, and there is no reason why one would have taken a compound specifically disclosed for a thermal recording material and used it in a masking material for plating as in Kenji.

Similarly, Kenji and Iguchi would not have been combined by one of ordinary skill in the art. Even if Iguchi discloses a specific compound within the scope of a general formula disclosed in Kenji, Iguchi's compound is for a silver complex diffusion transfer process, and there is no reason why one would have taken a compound specifically disclosed for a silver complex diffusion transfer process and used it in a masking material for plating as in Kenji.

Thus, Applicants submit that the present invention is neither anticipated by nor obvious over the cited art, and withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 and 3

Applicants note that while the Examiner indicates on the Office Action Summary page that only claims 18-20 are withdrawn from consideration and that claims 1-17 are rejected,

claims 2 and 3 were not actually included in any rejection. Accordingly, although Applicants consider that this application should be allowed in view of the above remarks, in the event that the Examiner does not allow it he should issue a new Office Action including a discussion of claims 2-3 on the merits.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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